

staffs. He earned the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his contributions to OLA.

In May 1999, he earned the rank of chief petty officer and received orders to Commander, Military Sealift Command, Europe, COMSCEUR, in Naples, Italy. He served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor, Administrative Officer and Command Chief to COMSCEUR. He was entrusted with the health, morale, and welfare of all COMSC enlisted sailors assigned to the European Area of Responsibility. Chief Scott earned the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (Second Award) for his noteworthy contributions. In November 2005, he accepted orders as the Leading Chief Petty Officer in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The citizens of the State of Mississippi, particularly the 4th Congressional District, are proud of Chief Scott's service. They join me in thanking him and his family for their contributions to the Navy and the Nation, and in wishing them all the best both now and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ORVAL ALLEN KELSO

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Mr. Orval Allen Kelso.

Today, deeply engaged in a war on terror, thousands of American civilians are working and serving in harm's way. Like the brave men and women serving in uniform, these patriotic citizens risk their lives everyday in an effort to rebuild a stronger future for the people of Iraq. However, they are not alone. American civilian contractors have been operating in combat theatres since as early as World War II, and I am here today to tell you about one of those.

Orval Allen Kelso was a civilian working on Wake Island during the early 1940s. Hailing from Emmett, Idaho, Orval worked as a baker in his father-in-law's bakery before going on to pursue better wages working overseas. Mr. Kelso worked as a heavy machine operator throughout the Pacific until April 8, 1943, when he was captured and taken as a POW to Camp 18, Sesabo, Japan. Orval later died in that camp. His remains were claimed by his son in 1949, when they were brought back to rest on U.S. soil at the National Memorial Cemetery, Honolulu, Hawaii.

It is fitting that we honor Mr. Kelso for his sacrifice and also be reminded of the many others who were taken prisoner or who paid the ultimate sacrifice working in harm's way. We often forget about the non-military Americans who gave their all for the freedoms we cherish in our great Nation. Let us help remedy that today by recognizing Mr. Kelso and the civilian POW's taken during World War II. They are an exemplary example of the selflessness displayed by Americans in an effort to bring peace and freedom to millions, and we thank them for their sacrifice.

COMMENDING MRS. PATRICIA CASSELL ON HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY.

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mrs. Patricia Cassell on her long and distinguished service to her community, and congratulate her on her upcoming retirement after 48 years of teaching.

As a first grader, Mrs. Cassell knew her future lay in the field of education. However, coming from modest means, Mrs. Cassell understood that she would have to work exceptionally hard to achieve her dream. At a very young age, she began saving her money in order to pay for her college education. After graduating sixth in her high school class of 308, she earned two academic scholarships to Millersville State Teachers College, where she earned her degree in elementary education in just 3 years.

Her first job teaching started just over 48 years ago, in Myerstown, Pennsylvania, and she has been teaching since. After moving to Atlantic City, NJ, in 1973 with her husband, Daniel, Mrs. Cassell soon accepted a position at Atlantic Christian School where she has taught for 29 years.

Throughout her 48 years of teaching, Mrs. Cassell has remained a steadfast example of exemplary service, guidance, and dedication to her students. For this, she was awarded the Career Service and Achievement Award from the Association of Christian Schools International. I would like to personally congratulate Mrs. Cassell on behalf of the students she has taught over the years and ask that she thoroughly enjoy her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HILDA MCDONALD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of former Milton City Councilwoman Hilda McDonald. Following a battle with cancer, Hilda left us Thursday, May 17, at the age of 83.

A native Floridian, Hilda pursued a degree in research biology from Florida State's College for Women. However, she gave up her studies during World War II to teach under an emergency teaching certificate. This kind of selfless behavior was prominent throughout Hilda's life.

In 1984, Hilda began serving on the City Council for the city of Milton and remained on the board for 16 years. During these years Hilda founded Blackwater Baptist Church and the Benevolent Association of Santa Rosa County. She also became the first President of the Women's Advisory Council for Santa Rosa Hospital and led as Chair for the restoration of Milton's City Hall. Mayor Guy Thompson who knew Hilda for 30 years explained, "She had a heart for helping people, and that reflected in the life she led."

It is certain the people of Milton are mourning the loss of Hilda, who played an important role in over 15 community organizations. However, her legacy is sure to continue through the generations of her family she nurtured and guided. My thoughts and prayers remain with her 9 children, 13 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and her brother.

Hilda's daughter, Mary Golden, has said of her mother "the one thing I would like my mother to be known for was that she was a giver. She gave to others constantly throughout her life. And she was such a good mother, a wonderful Christian mother."

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with no small amount of sorrow that I tell of the passing of Hilda McDonald from this world. Hilda will be remembered as a leader, a giver, and an adamant philanthropist. May God rest her soul and continue to bless her family.

BURMA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the attached report describing the attacks by the brutal military dictatorship against the ethnic peoples of Burma. The situation facing the internally displaced is dire. The international community needs to step up its assistance to refugees and displaced persons. In addition, the international community must act immediately to stop the ethnic cleansing and other horrific acts by the dictatorship against the people of Burma.

REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL—BURMA: MILITARY OFFENSIVE DISPLACING THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS

The worst Burmese military offensive in 10 years has displaced at least 27,000 people in eastern Burma's Karen State since November 2005. The displaced are civilians who have been targeted by the army and are living in exceptionally vulnerable conditions. An estimated three million people have been forced to migrate in Burma as a result of conflict, persecution, human rights abuses, and repressive government measures that prevent people from earning a livelihood. Instead of fulfilling its responsibility to protect its citizens, the Government of Burma, known as the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), is the biggest perpetrator of violations in the country.

Ethnic groups, comprising one-third of Burma's 52 million people, have borne the brunt of the government's repressive policies. The pattern of the Burmese military or the Tatmadaw has been to eliminate all opposition and take full control of ethnic areas. As part of its strategy to curb the support of ethnic insurgent armies, it targets civilians it perceives as backers of the insurgent groups.

In the course of Tatmadaw operations at least 3,000 villages have been destroyed along the eastern Burma border since 1996. Villagers have been forced to flee to hiding sites in jungles, move to government-controlled relocation sites, or travel to relatively more secure ceasefire locations. Today Burma is estimated to have the worst internal displacement crisis in Asia. More than 500,000 civilians are displaced in eastern Burma, with those in hiding being the most vulnerable. People unable to care for themselves